

Former Grinnellian, Back for Holidays, Fatally Hurt as Car Leaves No. 6, Rolls

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Stacy Phelps, 23-year-old former Grinnellian, was fatally injured in an automobile accident at the Madison corner about 5 miles west of Grinnell on highway 6 about 5 a. m. Saturday morning.

Phelps died at Community hospital about 7:45 a. m. without regaining consciousness. He suffered a basal skull fracture, a fracture of the left arm and probable multiple internal injuries in the crash.

Fell Asleep

Jasper county Deputy Sheriff Taser Huitt stated that Phelps apparently fell asleep at the wheel of his eastbound 1933 Plymouth just prior to the accident.

The car left the highway as it went into the curve, rolled several times and came to rest upside down in the ditch some 125 feet from where it had left the road.

Phelps, who was driving alone, was thrown clear of the wreck and was found, unconscious, and alive, some 10 feet from the completely wrecked remains of his car.

Dies In Hospital

He was taken to Community hospital by an ambulance furnished by the James Funeral home. He remained unconscious at the hospital and died about 2 hours and 45 minutes after the crash.

Grinnell police were first notified of the accident by an interstate transport truck driver who telephoned the department from near the scene of the accident. The Grinnell department then notified Newton police, since the wreck occurred in Jasper county.

Besides Huitt, highway patrolmen Lueders and Walker also were at the scene of the accident.

Born In Grinnell

Phelps, who was born in Grinnell, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Phelps. His father used to operate the Raven restaurant, now Reed's Snack shop, on Main street.

Both parents left Grinnell Wednesday on their way to Victoria, Texas, where Clayton Phelps has accepted a government position.

They were reached in Victoria Saturday morning and flew back to Grinnell in the afternoon to attend their son's funeral today.

1948 GHS Grad

A 1948 graduate of Grinnell high school, where he lettered in football and basketball, Phelps had moved to Columbus, Neb., in the spring of 1953, where he had accepted a position with the Roselawn cemetery company.

He had returned to Grinnell to spend Christmas with his parents before they left for Texas, and had remained here visiting friends and relatives after their departure.

He was returning to Grinnell Saturday morning when the accident occurred.

In Air NG

Phelps had completed two years of liberal arts study at the State University of Iowa before he was called to active duty in the Air National Guard in April of 1951.

Serving at air bases in Bangor, Me., and Alexandria, La., he was discharged from active duty as a sergeant in December, 1952. He moved to Nebraska a few months after his return from the service.

Funeral Held Today

Phelps was held this afternoon (Monday) at the Smith Funeral home by the Rev. W. F. Overhulser of the Methodist church. Interment was in Hamalwood cemetery.

Burialbearers were friends of the deceased, including Kenneth Cosma, Austin, Minn.; David Hamilton and Tom Saugster, Iowa City; Glen Stover and Gene Talbott, Columbus, Neb., and Wayne Town, Ames.

Surviving besides his parents, is one sister, Gerry of Chicago.